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On the Cover: AINOS in Thrace. Reverse of silver coin. ca. 400-350 B.C. Goat walking right.

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From the Editor's Desk

As often has been stated, the contents of the *Turtle* each month are to a large degree dependent upon the material which is made available to us by our readers. As also has been stated, the aim of the magazine is to present something for everyone—to neglect no phase of ancient or medieval numismatics—to enlarge the fields of interest of each of our readers. Thus far, while there still remain fields which need coverage in the *Turtle*, we feel that our basic goals have been well fulfilled.

The temptation is great to devote more space to Greek Imperial coins since this is the editor's own field of specialization and the study of this general category of numismatics is perhaps the most pressing from the historian's point of view. Further, this is an area of coinage in which little work has been done and a development of interest cannot but help to increase our knowledge of the field.

Another segment of numismatics which has hardly been touched here is that of the bronze coinages of the Hellenistic period. Our neglect is neither intentional nor unusual. The so called "Hellenistic small bronzes" are perhaps the least poorly classified, studied or understood of all ancient coins. Like the Greek Imperials, which are to a large extent outgrowth coinages of the earlier Hellenistic, these coins are of most pressing historical importance. They have much to reveal about the economic and political conditions pertaining to large parts of the ancient world at a time when our literary and epigraphic sources become quite scant. There is little justifiable reason to further neglect a profusion of coins which span half the Mediterranean world and in the case of the Greek Imperials, seven centuries of time.

Those who have written on the Greek Imperials have pointed out the difficulties pertaining to their study. The bibliography is not fully compiled. There are no catalogs, except what an individual is able to use in the way of the great corpora of Greek coins. The same holds true of the Hellenistic small bronzes, only perhaps more so. This is, no doubt, the main reason why these coins have been so long neglected.

Since any worthy effort directed toward the problems of Greek Imperial coins or Hellenistic bronze must start literally

from scratch, that is precisely what we propose to do. Several authors who have spent some time working in either or both of these fields have agreed to contribute short papers on various special aspects of the Greek Imperial or Hellenistic coinages. The editor will arrange some of his notes and speculations for publication.

This project, which of necessity will cover a long period of time will have to extend itself to provide geographical, historic and chronological data so that the coins can be related to their proper settings. while there is no intention to veer from the usual emphasis on Greek and Roman coins, nor to give up our efforts to probe little explored areas of numismatics, the *Turtle* will, in the future, devote considerable attention to these bronze coins that made up a good portion of the world's currency for more than half a millenium.

Collectors, particularly those of modest means, should welcome these articles. Many of these coins are quite moderately priced and can often be acquired in unidentified lots for a dollar or so each. The difficulties of classification and identification which have heretofore deterred collectors perhaps can be overcome through the many services which the ACCA has come to render. The Research Committee is always available for aid, and our growing library will make scarce bibliographic matter available to all of our members. The *Turtle* itself can and does act as a forum and medium for the solution of common problems and will, with this educational project, gradually enlighten this whole area of numismatics.

The Greek Imperials and the Hellenistic Bronzes have languished now for many centuries. We hope that this continuing attempt to bring them under serious scrutiny will be welcomed and participated in by all of our readers.

JOHN E. HARTMANN, Editor

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The Coins of Dura-Europus

H. H. Sturdivant

While most specialists in either coins or archaeology are fully familiar with the vast finds of the Yale Expedition at Dura, the more casaul or less specialized student might not be. It is therefore the purpose of this short paper to review briefly the work which has taken place and to point out the significance of the coin finds.

The city of Dura, located on the Euphrates River in Northern Mesopotamia was evidently a Seleucid foundation. It is believed that the town was founded circa 300 BC by Seleucus Nicator. As a settlement then, from its beginning, the town must be considered as Hellenic. The very name, Dura, is however of Semitic rather than Greek origin and the evidence uncovered by the archaelogists indicates that there was indeed a melding of cultures so that the town population was almost from its beginning a mixture of Greek and Semitic stocks.

At some time during the late second or early first century BC the city was occupied by the Parthians. The date is not certain, and what dating is available is in large part determined from an analysis of the coins. Bellinger feels that the year 113 BC is that which is best supported by the coins as the time when the Parthians took control of the city from the waning Seleucid Empire.

Dura was then a Parthian city for over two centuries. It appears that the Romans first entered the town during the Eastern campaigns of Trajan against Parthia (c. 114-117 AD). It also appears that the town reverted to Parthian control after the death of Trajan when Hadrian pursued a policy of consolidation of the Imperial frontiers. With the campaigns of Lucius Verus in the East in 164-165, Dura became a permanent Roman garrison. The Roman occupation was continuous until at some time during the 250's the city was finally lost to the Sassanians. The loss of the town must be associated with the disastrous campaigns of Valerian and must have taken place between 255 and 260. The final date for Roman occupation has not been fully determined.

The Persians evidently did not make use of the site and it gradually became abandoned after the Roman period. The Iranian evidence is quite sparse and indicates no prolonged period of occupation. The final appearance of Dura in antiquity is a remark in Ammianus Marcellinus (xxiii:5,7.) attributed to Julian "Dura desertus oppidium."

This site then having been abandoned at some time in late antiquity was never reoccupied and thus it remained for the coming of the archaeologist. While there were tentative attempts on the site by the French, culminating in Cumont's unearthing of the so called Palmyrene gate in 1922-23, the main impetus was the Yale University expedition which moved to the site in 1928 and excavated there until 1939.

These excavations were carried on by professional archaeologists. They used the latest techniques for the preservation of artifacts and the site was literally exhausted as to its potential. It was completely unearthed.

Much material has accumulated in print since the appearance in 1928 of the first of nine preliminary or annual reports. Various finds were reported as they came to light in the professional journals appropriate to the subject matter of the finds. Coins were unearthed in large hoards and were published under the auspices of the American Numismatic Society as part of its series of *Numismatic Notes and Monographs.*

Since the actual work at the site has come to a close, various experts who were closely associated with the work have issued final reports in which all the appropriate material was classified and published. Not all of the final reports have yet appeared.

Volume VI of the *Final Report of the Excavations at Dura-Europus* by Alfred A. Bellinger appeared in 1949. In this final report, Bellinger catalogs all of the 14,017 coins which were discovered at the site during the course of the excavations. A total of 22 individual hoards were discovered which contained some 6800 coins.

The final reports includes also a commentary on the catalog, indices of mints, emperors and monarchs, a table of countermarks and preliminary speculations as to the significance of the coins themselves as to the economic and physical history of the city.

Beyond this point, with the evidence all in and starkly laid out for future students, the interpretation of the coins must begin. Dura itself did not mint, or if she did so, only for a brief period during the early Seleucid times. Her currency was thus imported from more important cities nearby. The coins which were discovered there have a great deal to tell us about the history of the frontier, the economic facts of the region, Roman policy towards its cities and provinces, and so forth. The interpretation of the evidence is in the hands of the coming generation of scholars.

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(A note on the sequence of volumes appears in Vol. 6, 1967, pp. 275-277)

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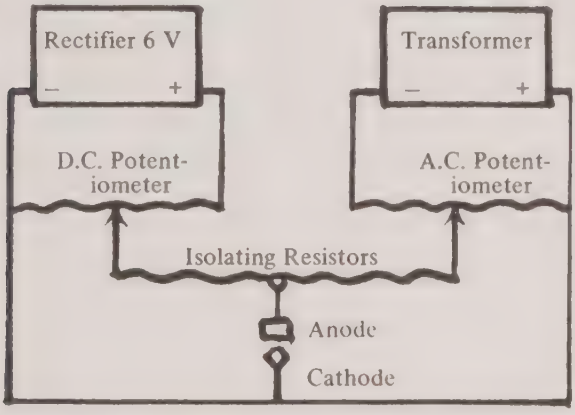
The Electrolytic Restoration of Ancient Bronze Coins

James A. Baker

About two years ago the author decided that the then current technique of the restoration of ancient bronze coins could be improved.

Probably the most satisfactory of these was the Reify Inc. process in which the bronze artifact, with the original corrosion intact, was made the cathode in a weak sulfuric acid solution through which a small electric current was passed for a period of weeks or months.



This had the effects of reversing the original process of corrosion, and of coaxing the displaced metal atoms back into their original positions.

It was reasoned that if this drift current were superimposed on an alternating current of higher voltage, the electrolytic breakdown of the corrosion products could be speeded up without excessive displacement of the metallic ions.

This results in a rather elaborate electrical setup, since the A.C. and D.C. sources tend to short each other out, and must be isolated electrically.

The bronze to be restored is made the cathode, and the anode can be any conductor, such as gas carbon, which is insoluble in the electrolyte. After the corrosion has been reduced surface dirt is removed with a soft wire brush.

Since coins are the only ancient bronze artifacts readily available at reasonable prices, most of my experience has been

with them, although other bronzes have been successfully restored.

The first experimental results were encouraging. This was fortunate because later tries resulted in 85% scrap on certain alloys.

Gradually a balance of solution concentration, A.C., and D.C. potentials was found which eliminated the possibilty of solution damage to any alloy which was coined before 1800.

This date is arbitrarily selected so as to exclude zinc coins.

(To be Continued)

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Club News — Notices
Elsewhere In The Numismatic World

COIN HOARD: A hoard of Roman coins was uncovered near Warsaw, Poland recently. The photograph shows students taking part in a search for additional coins on the site of the hoard find. The contents of the hoard are not yet published. Photo courtesy of: BIULETYN NIMIZMATYCZNY, Polskie Towarzystwo Archeologiczne.

URGENT NOTICE: Will any person who purchased a silver coin of KOS earlier this year from the firm of Manfra, Tordella and Brookes please get in touch with W. W. Lyon. The ACCA through its research committee is interested in cataloging and publishing the constitution of a hoard, part of which was disbursed. W. W. Lyon, 6908 Madisonville Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45227. (Mr. Lyon is a member of the ACCA research committee and organizer of the local chapter.

He possesses perhaps the bulk of the coin hoard, and is anxious to receive data regarding the remainder.)

LEWIS REAGON MEMORIAL LITERARY AWARD: J. Sherrod Taylor is the recipient of this award of the American Numismatic Association for the year 1966. He is a junior at the University of Georgia and he is carrying a history major. He is a member of the ACCA and has had one short article appear in the *Turtle*. His award was made on the basis of an article he published in the *Whitman Numismatic Journal* on the subject of the Washington 25 cent piece. Hazel Lindstrom. Co-Chairman of Young Numismatist American Numismatic Association.

Six collectors have formed a chapter of the ACCA in Tampa, Florida. Meetings are held on a regular monthly basis. Anyone in the area is invited to attend and participate. Visiting ACCA members would be welcome at any time. Contact William F. Hadley, 8405 S. Flintrock Court, Tampa, Florida 33615, Phone: 884-9604.

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Book Reviews

BRUUN, PATRICK M., *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, Vol. VII, *Constantine and Licinius, A. D.* 313-337. Edited by C. H. V. SUTHERLAND AND R. A. G. CARSON. Spink & Son, Ltd., London. 1966. 778 pp., 24 pl. lb. ($33.60).

Publication of Volume VII of *The Roman Imperial Coinage* brings this most important work to within two volumes of completion. It covers a very detailed and difficult period of Roman numismatics, spanning only 25 years. It must be a real labor of love, occupying the author from his period at Helsinki University to his present post as Director of the Institutum Romanum Finlandae at Rome. This particular volume, covering as it does such detailed material, will primarily be of interest to those who own the complete RIC, and the few special students and collectors of the period. The historical and technical discussions are even better than we have become used to in the series, and there are added tables of chemical analyses. We are also given rarities in terms of numbers of specimens. This volume lacks the Cohen references which appear in all the others.

I would now like to turn from this particular volume to a brief discussion of the whole *RIC* for the benefit of ACCA members who may not be familiar with it.

The Roman Imperial Coinage is *the* important work on this area of numismatics. How fortunate we are that it is in the English language! It is the first major reference which should be acquired by any library or collector who is advancing beyond the point of dealers' lists and simplified books. Its importance is well illustrated by the following remarks by Richard Reece in his article entitled, "A Numismatic "Tour de France' "[1]:

"It is rather an interesting compliment to British numismatists that apart from Voetter, all modern French references for Roman coins are made to English publications. I heard in Paris what I was to hear quite often on my journey, when I enquired what reference books they used. The reply came back immediately 'Mattingly and Sydenham's *Roman Imperial Coinage*, as far as it goes, what a tragedy that it is not complete . . ."[2] (This tour apparently was made before the appearance of Volumes VII and IX).

The series was started in 1923 by Mattingly and Sydenham, who are too well-known to collectors to need introduction. It has been added to at intervals, so that with the projected publication of Volumes VI in 1967, and of VIII and X in the near future, the whole work will be complete by 1973. The earlier volumes are now out of print, and would have to be obtained on the scond-hand market. However, the publishers are exploring the possibility of reprinting. In a letter from them I am told that the response has been poor so far. They state, "Thank you for recommending this work when you can. It is very difficult to break the prejudice in favor of Cohen but there are at least one thousand sets of Roman Imperial Coinage in use and it is

[1] *Seaby's Coin and Medal Bulletin*, p. 107, March, 1967.

[2] There follows a reference to the use of Carson, Hill and Kent, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*, which is used as supplementary to *RIC* at the present time, and which I hope to review soon.

now being fairly widely accepted." The prejudice mentioned seems to me to exist mainly because dealers and promoters only want a reference which is essentially a price list. *RIC* offers something far better. The proposed subscription price for the reprint of the previous nine parts (Vol. I - L. IX) is $168. This amount is not excessive when compared with similar comprehensive works which are purchased by serious collectors.

I am writing this discussion for the benefit of ACCA members and others who may not be familiar with this great work. There are so many new collectors in the United States who are buying appreciable numbers of Roman Imperials that it would seem to me the number of subscriptions to finance a reprint could easily be obtained, if they were aware of the possibility. All of this may sound like a sales pitch, but it is not. The interest is in keeping a great English-language publication from becoming a second-hand oddity, which this one should never be. C. E. Rowe

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Alyce Cresap, Managing Editor

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